

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-03 FRB-01

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-01 OPIC-02 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-01 AGR-03 GSA-01

SWF-01 ARA-09 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-07 PA-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-04 DRC-01 /088 W

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R 071130Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1149

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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COMMERCE FOR MEPD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EALR BEXP EAGR EINV KU

SUBJ: KUWAIT INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY AND KUWAIT-US COOPERATION
IN THIRD COUNTRIES

REF: KUWAIT 4166 (NOTAL)

1. IN REFTEL WE NOTED THAT THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT GOK
WAS MAKING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS WITH A VIEW TOWARD SECURING
CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS. THIS WAS CONFIRMED OCTOBER 6TH WHEN
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SENIOR MIN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT

ONE OF THE PRIMARY GOALS OF GOK IS TO SECURE CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS NEEDED BY KUWAITI PUBLIC AND INDUSTRY. SPECIFICALLY HE CITED NEED TO OBTAIN SECURE SUPPLIES OF RICE, WHEAT, MEAT AND SUGAR AS WELL AS IRON ORE FOR PROPOSED STEEL MILL AND "PERHAPS" BAUXITE FOR POSSIBLE ALUMINUM SMELTER HERE. GOK OFFICIAL SAID THAT KUWAITI ABILITY TO PAY GOING PRICE FOR FOOD AND OTHER RAW MATERIAL WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT. COUNTRY MUST HAVE ACCESS TO ACTUAL MATERIALS.

2. IN DISCUSSING KUWAITI NEEDS OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT KUWAITIS WOULD LIKE TO WORK IN SUCH COUNTRIES AS EGYPT AND THE SUDAN, WHERE HIGH TECHNOLOGY AGRICULTURE COULD BE DEVELOPED, AND IN SOMALIA AND MAURITANIA WHERE LOCAL IRON ORE DEPOSITS COULD BE EXPLOITED. HE SAID THAT AGRICULTURAL AND MINERAL PROJECTS IN POOR COUNTRIES SUCH AS THESE WOULD BE GOOD PLACES TO MATE KUWAITI FINANCE WITH US TECHNOLOGY.

3. COMMENT: OFFICIAL'S REMARKS LEND WEIGHT TO OUR JUDGEMENT THAT KUWAITIS WILL BE ATTEMPTING TO SECURE CRITICAL RAW SUPPLIES FROM OVERSEAS SOURCES THROUGH FOREIGN INVESTMENTS. WE SUSPECT OTHER COUNTRIES IN REGION MAY ALSO ADOPT SIMILAR POLICIES. WE AGREE WITH GOK OFFICIAL THAT AGRICULTURE AND MINERAL PROJECTS IN AFRICA OR ELSEWHERE WOULD BE WORTH A CLOSE LOOK IN CONTEXT OF US-KUWAITI COOPERATION IN THIRD COUNTRIES.

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Message Attributes

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